

Johnny Mack Brown



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WESTERN SONGS



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Among the few things to remain unchanged by our modern civilization are the songs and ballads of the old west. The very same western songs that were sung on the trails of Texas, and in the cow camps across the vast sagebrush expanse from Wyoming to California, are still sung today by a new generation of trail-dusty, unshaven cowhands.

The old range land songs and ballads, almost without exception, are stories of heroic action, manly chivalry and sentiment, loyalty to man and beast, and a deep respect for women. These things combined make up the Western Code, which we still applaud whenever the spirit of the West prevails.

The cowboy sang his lusty or sentimental ballads for many reasons. He sang to entertain himself on lonely rides, or to quiet restive cattle on a waterless or stormy trail. Sometimes he sang just for the fun of it, but more often because he liked the sad, sentimental strain that runs through most western ballads. Since his daily routine was raw and lusty, he often sang of the "tender things" of life. And



when the songs told of strife and death, almost invariably honor and right won over wrong.

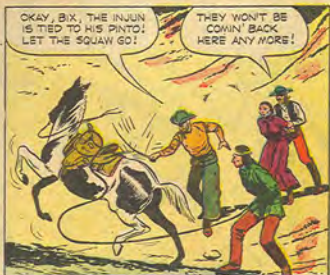
Many times the cowboy improvised the songs he sang, as for example the "Ogallala Song," which was just made up as the trail went north by men singing on night guard, with a verse for every river on the trail. Another example was the "Old Chisholm Trail," a song of life on the endless, dusty longhorn trails up from Texas, to which was added improvised verses numbering more than a hundred odd!



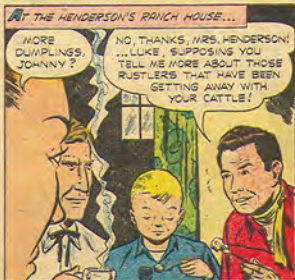
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JOHNNY MACK BROWN

and The Disappearing Cattle







I DON'T KNOW HOW IN TARNATION THEY'RE RUSTLIN' 'EM, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE CATTLE DISAPPEAR TO! BUT ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE... IF IT KEEPS ON I'LL BE RUINED!



WHAT ABOUT TRACKS?

WE ALWAYS FIND TRACKS O' THE HOMBRE WHO CUTS THE FENCE, BUT WE NEVER FIND ANY STEER TRACKS! SEEMS LIKE THE CATTLE VANISH INTO THIN AIR!

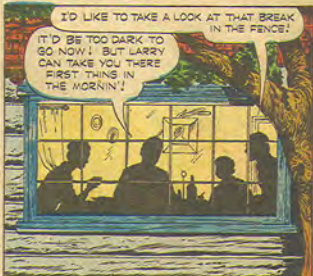


AND WE NEVER FIND MORE THAN ONE BREAK IN THE FENCE! LAST NIGHT I LOST ANOTHER HUNDRED HEAD!



I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT BREAK IN THE FENCE!

IT'D BE TOO DARK TO GO NOW! BUT LARRY CAN TAKE YOU THERE FIRST THING IN THE MORNIN'!



NEXT MORNIN'...

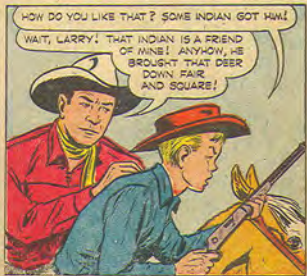
THAT'S TIM! PA SENT HIM OUT TO FIX THE FENCE!



TIM, DID THE RUSTLERS LEAVE ANY TRAIL?

NONE, 'CEPTIN' THIS HERE TRAIL O' A LONE HORSEMAN! ME AN' THE BOYS FOLLON'D IT YESTERDAY, BUT WE KINDA LOST IT!

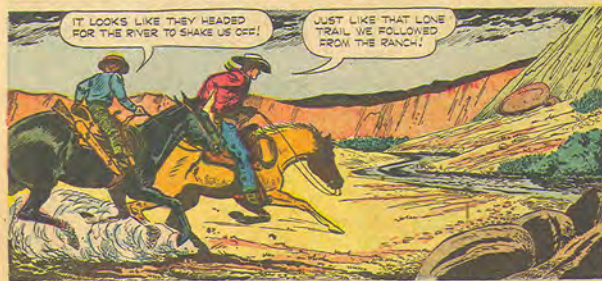


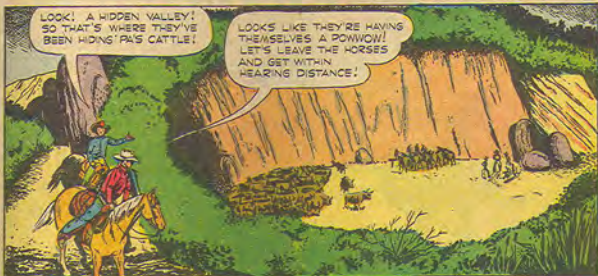




LET'S GIVE THEM
A LITTLE SURPRISE
OF OUR OWN!









THIS SHOULD HOLD YOU TILL WE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET RID OF YOU PER GOOD!



MEANWHILE, LARRY ARRIVES AT THE RANCH...

PA, WE FOUND THE RUSTLERS' HIDE-OUT! TONIGHT THEY'RE GOING AFTER THE WHOLE NORTH HERD! JOHNNY SAYS TO HIDE BY THE NORTH FENCE!

JUST LET 'EM TRY! WE'LL BE WAITIN'!



LATER, JOHNNY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...



IF ONLY I COULD GET THIS POLE LOOSE AND ROLL INTO THE RIVER!

WE GOTTA KILL HIM, ACE! HE KNOWS OUR PLANS!

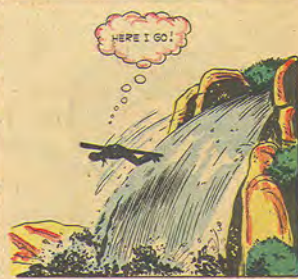
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!



I'LL TAKE CARE O' THAT DETAIL.

THIS POLE IS GETTING LOOSE... A LITTLE MORE, AND...









YOU USE BOOT... ME
USE YOUR BOOT, TOO!



WE TIE HIM SO HE NEVER COME LOOSE!
LOOK! FRESH CATTLE TRACKS!

WHERE DOES THIS
TUNNEL LEAD?



IT WIND UNDER RIVER
AND COME UP ON OTHER
SIDE SOMEWHERE!

COME ON, LET'S
TAKE A LOOK!
I'VE GOT
A HUNCH!



AT THE TUNNEL'S EXIT...

LOOK! HENDERSON'S
RANCH HOUSE! IT'S
JUST AS I FIGURED!

WHAT YOU
MEAN?



THE RUSTLERS BRING THE CATTLE
THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND UNDER THE
FENCE! THEY CREATE A FALSE LEAD
BY CUTTING THE FENCE AT THE OTHER
END OF THE RANCH! THAT MAKES IT
SEEM LIKE THE CATTLE VANISH INTO
THIN AIR!



WHY THEY
AFTER ME?

YOU SET UP YOUR HUT TOO
CLOSE TO THE TUNNEL'S EXIT!
YOU MIGHT HAVE DISCOVERED
THEM! COME ON, LET'S GET
TO THE RANCH HOUSE!





JOHNNY, THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW! WE'LL HAVE TO RIDE FAST TO SAVE THE NORTH HERD! TAKE CARE OF GREEN TREE'S SQUAW!

BACK AT THE HENDERSON'S RANCH...



JOHNNY AND GREEN TREE RIDE TO WARN HENDERSON OF THE RUSTLERS' TRICK...

THAT'S THE NORTH HERD THEY'RE RUSTLING! WE BETTER CIRCLE THEM AND KEEP OUT OF SIGHT!



THAT'S HOW THEY COVERED UP THEIR TRACKS LEADING TO THE TUNNEL! THEY DRAG BRUSHWOOD BEHIND THEM!

HENDERSON WAIT BY NORTH FENCE -- BUT RUSTLERS DRIVE CATTLE SOUTH TO TUNNEL! WE MUST GO FIND HIM!



THEY FIND HENDERSON AND HIS MEN GUARDING THE NORTH FENCE...

LUKE, YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED! HAVE YOUR MEN GRAB THOSE TORCHES AND FOLLOW ME! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!

RIGHT, JOHNNY!



THE RUSTLERS WILL DRIVE THE CATTLE OUT OF AN OLD TUNNEL BY THE WATERFALL! LET THE CATTLE THROUGH -- AND THEN WE'LL MOVE IN AND AMBUSH THOSE COYOTES!

HERE THEY COME! HOLD UP YOUR TORCHES, MEN!



IF YOU HOMBRES' CHOOSE TO SHOOT IT OUT-- THE TORCHES WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW MANY THERE ARE OF US!



GIVE 'EM SOME GUN PLAY, MEN!

ANNNH!



YOU AIN'T TAKIN' ME SO EASY!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU PERSONALLY!



BLAST THAT CONPKE -- HIS TORCH SPOOKED MY HORSE!





JOHNNY MACK BROWN

in the
**RIMROCK
ROBBERY**

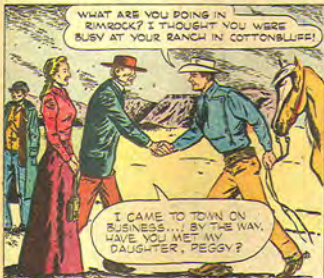
EARLY ONE
MORNING IN
RIMROCK...

JOHNNY!
JOHNNY MACK
BROWN!

WELL, IF
IT ISN'T
MY OLD
FRIEND PAUL
JONATHAN!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN
RIMROCK? I THOUGHT YOU WERE
BUSY AT YOUR RANCH IN COTTONBLUFF!



I CAME TO TOWN ON
BUSINESS... BY THE WAY,
HAVE YOU MET MY
DAUGHTER, PEGGY?

YOU'RE JUST
IN TIME TO SEE
US OFF ON THE
STAGE, JOHNNY!

WHY DON'T YOU
TAKE THE NEXT
ONE? WE'LL HAVE
DINNER TOGETHER!



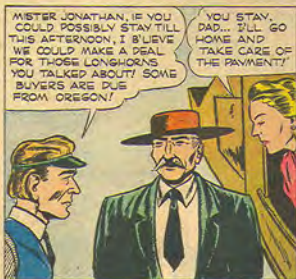
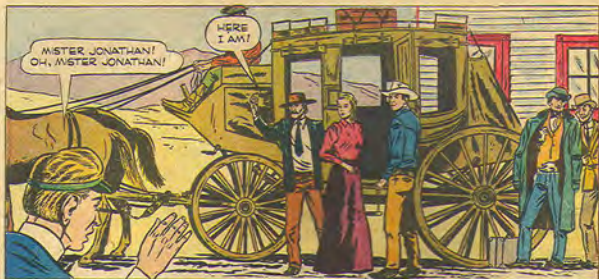
SORRY, JOHNNY, BUT WE'VE GOT
TO HURRY BACK! THIS MONEY WAS TO BE
PAID ON MY MORTGAGE... OTHERWISE
IT'LL BE FORCLOSED!

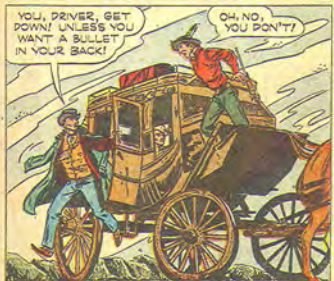
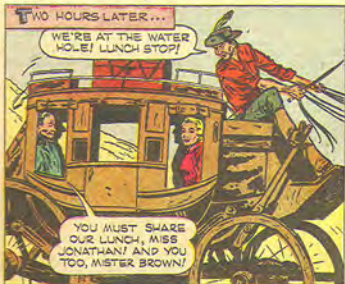


WE'VE GOT TILL
SIX O'CLOCK TO
GET IT TO
THE BANK!

STAGE TO
COTTONBLUFF...
LEAVING NOW!

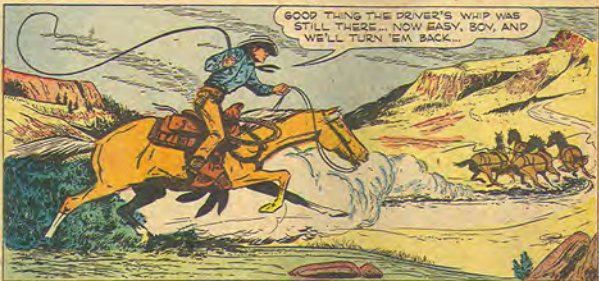












I'LL TAKE ONE TO RIDE, JOHNNY, AN' TIE THE OTHER THREE TO THE STAGE TILL SOMEONE CAN COME AND GET THEM!



I THINK YOU CAN RIDE THE LEAD HORSE, PEG! BUT THERE'S NO SADDLE!

I WON'T NEED ONE... I'LL USE A BLANKET!



NOW... DID THEY SAY WHERE THEY WERE GOING?

NO, BUT THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW THE TERRITORY WELL... SEEMED TO BE WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO LEAD THEM OUT BY A BACK ROAD!



THAT WAS SMART OF 'EM... IF THEY PASS COTTONBLUFF, THEY MIGHT BE NOTICED... THEIR TRACKS SEEM TO HEAD INTO THE HILLS!



LATER...

I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WAS ONE OF THE SMARTEST JOBS I'VE EVER SEEN... WONDER HOW THEY GOT THEIR INFORMATION ABOUT THE STAGE MONEY?

ONE OF THEM SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SOME FELLOW COMING FROM RIMROCK... MAYBE HE KNEW THE DETAILS!



HMM... MAYBE THEY'RE HOLED UP IN THAT CABIN DOWN THERE!



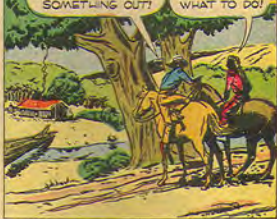
IF THEY'RE WAITIN' FOR SOMEBODY TO GUIDE THEM OUT, THEY'D LIKELY WAIT HERE!

IF IT IS THEM, HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY GET INTO THE HOUSE? WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOT A GUN!



WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY TO WORK SOMETHING OUT!

OKAY, JOHNNY, JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO!



YOU STAY IN THE BRUSH, NEAR THE BIG TREE! WHEN YOU SEE ME GET TO THE HOUSE, START THROWING STONES AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE!



THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE PEGGY, SINCE THERE'S NO WINDOW ON THAT SIDE!



WELL, HERE IT GOES!



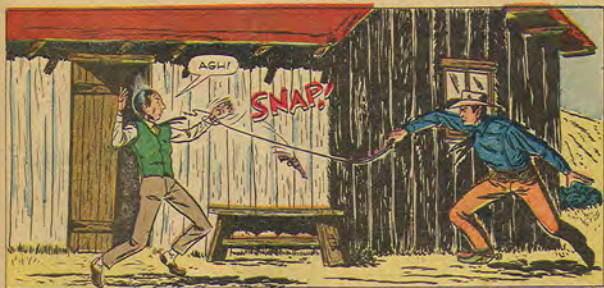
WHAT WAS THAT?

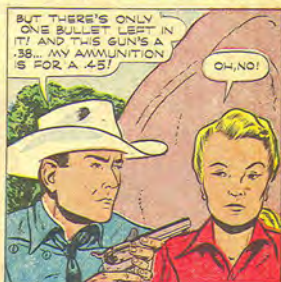
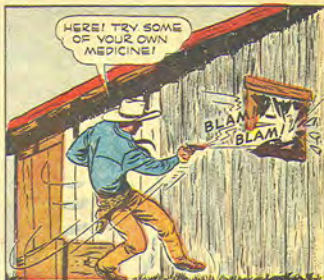
I'LL HAVE A LOOK!

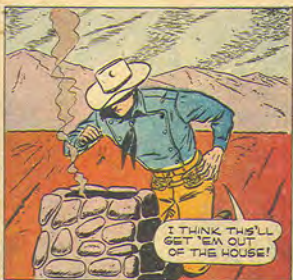
PLUNK!

PLUNK!



















OPEN UP! OPEN UP, I SAY!



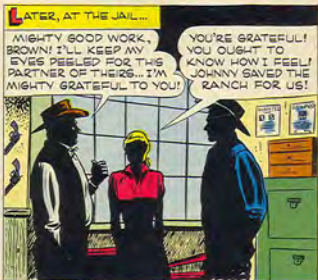
MISS JONATHAN! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

NEVER MIND THAT NOW...! ... I JUST CAME TO PAY OUR MORTGAGE!



YOU CERTAINLY WAITED TILL THE LAST MINUTE! I THOUGHT...

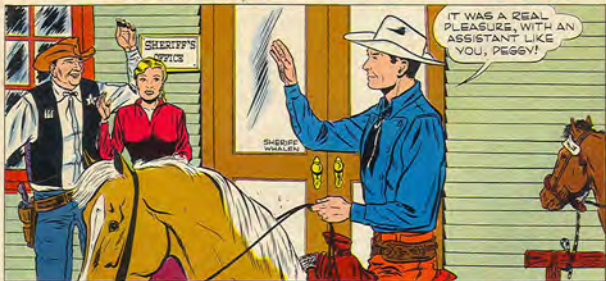
BUT WE MADE IT, AND THAT'S ALL THAT COUNTS! WILL YOU GIVE ME A RECEIPT QUICKLY, PLEASE! I'VE GOT A DATE AT THE JAIL!



LATER, AT THE JAIL...

MIGHTY GOOD WORK, BROWN! I'LL KEEP MY EYES PEELED FOR THIS PARTNER OF THEIRS... I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL TO YOU!

YOU'RE GRATEFUL! YOU OUGHT TO KNOW HOW I FEEL! JOHNNY SAVED THE RANCH FOR US!



IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE, WITH AN ASSISTANT LIKE YOU, PEGGY!